

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 208

May 25, 1995, 10:33 a.m.
Page S-7412 Temp. Record

BUDGET RESOLUTION/Tobacco Tax Increase

SUBJECT: Senate Concurrent Budget Resolution for fiscal years 1996-2002 . . . S. Con. Res. 13. Ford motion to table the Exon (for Harkin) amendment No. 1174.

ACTION: MOTION TO TABLE AGREED TO, 68-31

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. Con. Res. 13, the fiscal year 1996 Concurrent Budget Resolution, will reduce projected spending over 7 years to balance the budget by fiscal year (FY) 2002 without increasing taxes. Savings that will accrue from lower debt service payments (an estimated \$170 billion) will be dedicated to a reserve fund, which may be used for tax reductions after enactment of laws to ensure a balanced budget. Highlights include the following: the rate of growth in Medicare will be slowed to 7.1 percent; Medicaid's rate of growth will be slowed to 5 percent and it will be transformed into a block grant program; the Commerce Department and more than 100 other Federal programs, agencies, and commissions will be eliminated; welfare and housing programs will be reformed; agriculture, energy, and transportation subsidies will be cut; foreign aid will be cut; defense spending will be cut and then allowed to increase back to its 1995 level; and Social Security will not be altered.

The Exon (for Harkin) amendment would find that the Centers for Disease Control estimate that tobacco products impose a \$20 billion cost per year on Federal health programs like Medicaid and Medicare, and would express the sense of the Senate that any Finance Committee proposal should include a proposal to recover from tobacco companies a portion of the costs their products impose on American taxpayers and Federal health programs.

The amendment was offered after all debate time had expired. However, some statements on amendments were added to the record or were made before the amendments were offered and before debate time had expired. Also, by unanimous consent, 1 minute of time was allowed on each amendment for explanatory statements before each vote. Senator Ford moved to table the Harkin amendment. Generally, those favoring the motion to table opposed the amendment; those opposing the motion to table favored the amendment.

Those favoring the motion to table contended:

(See other side)

YEAS (68)			NAYS (31)		NOT VOTING (1)	
Republicans (50 or 93%)	Democrats (18 or 40%)		Republicans (4 or 7%)	Democrats (27 or 60%)	Republicans (0)	Democrats (1)
Abraham	Hutchison	Bingaman	Chafee	Akaka		Mikulski- ²
Ashcroft	Inhofe	Breaux	Hatfield	Baucus		
Bennett	Jeffords	Bumpers	Lugar	Biden		
Bond	Kassebaum	Daschle	Specter	Boxer		
Brown	Kempthorne	Dodd		Bradley		
Burns	Kyl	Exon		Bryan		
Campbell	Lott	Ford		Byrd		
Coats	Mack	Glenn		Conrad		
Cochran	McCain	Heflin		Dorgan		
Cohen	McConnell	Hollings		Feingold		
Coverdell	Murkowski	Inouye		Feinstein		
Craig	Nickles	Johnston		Graham		
D'Amato	Packwood	Kerrey		Harkin		
DeWine	Pressler	Moynihan		Kennedy		
Dole	Roth	Nunn		Kerry		
Domenici	Santorum	Pryor		Kohl		
Faircloth	Shelby	Reid		Lautenberg		
Frist	Simpson	Robb		Leahy		
Gorton	Smith			Levin		
Gramm	Snowe			Lieberman		
Grams	Stevens			Moseley-Braun		
Grassley	Thomas			Murray		
Gregg	Thompson			Pell		
Hatch	Thurmond			Rockefeller		
Helms	Warner			Sarbanes		
				Simon		
				Wellstone		

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

1—Official Business
2—Necessarily Absent
3—Illness
4—Other

SYMBOLS:

AY—Announced Yea
AN—Announced Nay
PY—Paired Yea
PN—Paired Nay

The Harkin amendment would express the sense of the Senate that up to a \$140 billion tax increase should be placed on the tobacco industry. It is certainly not our sense that such an enormous new tax should be passed, so we accordingly support the motion to table.

Those opposing the motion to table contended:

The adoption of this amendment would put the Senate on record in support of efforts to have tobacco companies pay a portion of the costs their products impose on American taxpayers and the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The Centers for Disease Control estimate that those costs are approximately \$20 billion per year. We think it is fair to make those companies pay, and thus oppose the motion to table.